

**BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 9, 2023

7:00 pm

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy., Potterville, MI 48876 at 7PM on January 9, 2023.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Gary Suits, led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Joy Suits. Roll Call for Board Members included: Gary Suits, Supervisor, Joy Suits, Clerk, Dave Falsetta, Scott Hoornstra, Charles Meddaugh, Chris Tennes - Trustees. Treasurer Karen Miller was not present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Charles moved to accept the agenda, Chris supported. Roll Call VOTE: Scott- Yea, Charles- Yea, Chris - Yea, Dave-Yea, Gary-yea, Joy-yea.. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Board meeting on December 12, 2022 were presented. Scott moved to approve the minutes, Charles supported. Roll Call VOTE: Scott- Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris - Yea, Charles – Yea, Gary- Yea, Joy-Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT: Benton Township Fire Department Chief Tim James, members Jake Arndt, James Bethea, Roy Gilbertson, Commissioner Brian Droscha, Potterville Police Chief Richard Berry.

REPORTS TO BOARD:

Sheriff's Report: Scott Hoornstra led the discussion of the Sheriff Report as no representative was available. 73 events were listed, including 9 traffic stops and 2 breaking and entering. Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

Fire Department Report – Chief James gave the Fire Department Report which included an update on the completion of the rebuild of T-215, the hiring of 1 new paramedic, and overview of the successful Christmas Stocking

event. Calls for service included (Fire) 4 City of Potterville, 19 Benton Township, 3 mutual aid and (EMS) 22 city of Potterville, 30 Benton Township, 62 mutual aid.

The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

Bills. Bills for December were paid \$6979.03, Payroll \$9564.21 Motion to accept bills made by Scott, supported by Charles. Roll Call VOTE: Chris - Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles – Yea, Dave-Yea, Gary- Yea, Joy-Yea. Motion carried 6Yeas - 0 Nays.

Clerk Report: Joy gave report. Work included assisted with tax calls, statement requests, zoning inquiries, etc. Paid Bills, contractors and staff. Cemetery requests for burials, foundations, and burial spaces, prepared publications, other duties of the clerk. Statutory duties of the office performed. Clerk report will be put on file.

Treasurer Report: Gary gave report in Karen's absence. Collected tax payments for summer 2022 & Winter 2023, researched and invested another \$100,00.00, working with BSA to set up on-line access, assisted with zoning and cemetery calls, and worked on bank reconciliation issues. Three Budget adjustments were approved. (See New Business.) Treasurer Report will be on file.

Supervisor Report: Gary gave Report. Attended Township Board Meeting Board of Review Meeting, and Planning Commission Meeting. Assisted with Zoning applications, calls and office encounters. Worked on Ordinance complaints and violation reports with Bob regarding problem properties. Prep work for planning meeting and Board meeting. Work with Tammy on Planning and Zoning issues. Performed Statutory Duties of the office. Supervisor report will be put on file.

Assessors Report: Report was provided by Gary. 3 building permits were issued in December. Report will be put on file.

Planning and Zoning: Report was provided by Gary which included 2 phone discussions, 2 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed , and 1 special use

permits. Planning and Zoning Report on file.

Ordinance Enforcement: Report was provided by Gary. Robert Bashore working to address complaints at 3 sites. Activity included site visits and phone calls to research possible violations. Report will be put on file.

Correspondence: Gary read a letter from the Township attorney regarding retirement investment. Gary suggested the issue be tabled until there was more interest. Charles suggested we do more research and the issue was tabled.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Gary proposed 3 adjustments to the budget:.

1 Move \$7,950 from Contingency and \$1400 from Equipment and Furniture to Building and Grounds to cover additional approved expense. Motion was made by Gary, supported by Chris. All voted yea.

2. Move \$4300 from Contingency to Election Board and \$660 to Election Supplies due to additional approved expense from 3 elections in 2022. Gary made the motion, supported by Chris. All voted yea.

3. Move \$3200 from Contingency to Insurance due to a substantial premium increase. Gary made the motion supported by Scott. All voted yea.

Public Comment Commissioner Droscha updated activities in county and the committees he will be serving which includes Chairman of IT, Vice Chair of Public Safety, and member of Parks/Recreation. Jake Arndt gave a thank you for all who supported the Christmas Stocking event.

Adjournment: Charles made a motion to adjourn, supported by Scott. All board members voted yea. Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Joy Suits, Clerk